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GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON VEGAS STARTUPS





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the spotlight on vegas

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et ready for a global spotlight to shine bright on the startup scene in Las Vegas. South by Southwest Vision to Venture (SXSW V2V) is coming to town August 11-14, a convention that will get lots of attention. It will bring together

entrepreneurs, innovative thinkers, business leaders and some of the most creative visionaries in the world – right here in Las Vegas. The conference, an extension of the acclaimed SXSW held in Austin, Texas, will emphasize the creativity and inspiration of startup entrepreneurs. It will connect them with peers, venture capitalists and angel investors, community builders, mentors and creative industry individuals.

The Metro Chamber couldn't be more thrilled to see such an organic, energetic group of inspired individuals come to Las Vegas, providing opportunities for interaction with the business community here. More and more, the international entrepreneurship community is beginning to look at what Las Vegas is doing to support innovators – as they say, we're finally "on the map."

SXSW V2V chose Las Vegas because of the strength and vision of its emerging tech and startup culture. According to conference organizers, "The tenacity of spirit and

scene as well. Vegas Tech's accelerator program now has three teams under its wing, two of them imported from other areas. People from all over the world want to see what we'll be doing. It's powerful.

One of the most exciting things about the startup ecosystem here in Southern Nevada is its raw potential. Entrepreneurship is strengthening its roots here. The business community has an amazing opportunity to create lasting relationships with these startups – businesses with the *potential* for high scalability, businesses with the *potential* to bring about real changes in the way we live and work.

The Metro Chamber has taken an active role in building a meaningful structure around the startup ecosystem. JumpStart Vegas is an entrepreneur-led program of the Chamber. Aimed at engaging startup entrepreneurs with programming, mentorship and resources to help them succeed, JumpStart Vegas connects established businesses with entrepreneurs. The goal is to create dialogue and meaningful connections and to match up innovation and ideas with real, customer-driven business models.

I invite you to explore involvement in and support of the startup community in Las Vegas. Check out a Startup

“one of the most exciting things about the startup ecosystem here in southern nevada is its raw potential.”

vision inherent in the Las Vegas ideal has attracted the attention of the startup community around the world.” And indeed, it has. The *New York Times* recently profiled the Downtown Project and the excitement buzzing around the downtown tech scene, and *Forbes* and *The Guardian* have both reported on our community's startup

Weekend, organized in part by JumpStart Vegas (the next one is August 9!). Contribute your expertise and services through JumpStart Vegas. Embrace the potential that we have as members of a community to keep the startup spotlight right where it belongs: on Las Vegas.



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Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce

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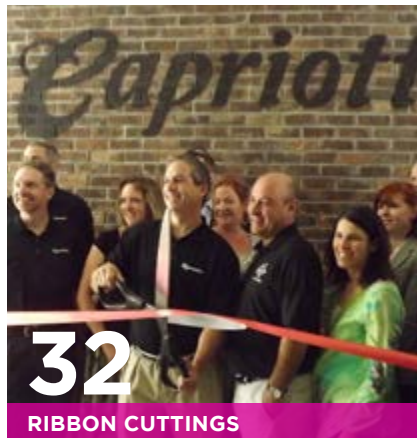
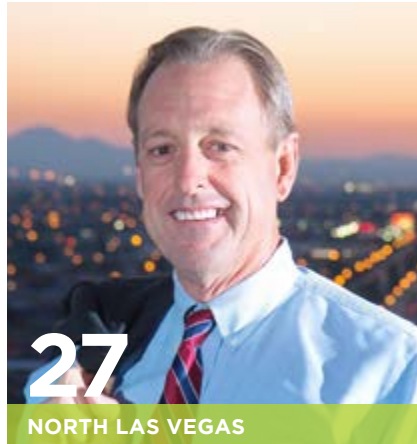
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table of contents

AUGUST 2013

- 06 Chamber News
- 08 News You Need
- 09 For Your Benefit
- 10 Working For You
- 12 Your Scene | You're Seen
- 14 **THE INTERNATIONAL
SPOTLIGHT ON VEGAS STARTUPS**
- 18 Know the Numbers
- 19 Chamber Insurance
& Benefits
- 20 What's Happening
- 22 Staff Spotlight
- 24 Spotlights
- 26 Member Insights
- 28 Member News
- 30 Member to Member
- 32 Ribbon Cuttings
- 34 In The Know
- 36 Vegas Young Professionals
- 38 Final Word



chamber news



senate majority leader harry reid to engage with metro chamber members

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will address the Metro Chamber membership on Wednesday, August 21, at the Four Seasons Las Vegas for a special Business Power Luncheon. Senator Reid will discuss federal issues and topics that impact the Southern Nevada business community, as well as give important legislative updates on economic development and diversification initiatives for the Las Vegas Valley. This event has booked quickly in the past, so early registration is recommended.

To reserve your seat or table or to get more information, visit LVChamber.com or call 702.641.5822.

jumpstart vegas & luxr give startups “eight weeks to product greatness”

JumpStart Vegas, an entrepreneur-led program of the Metro Chamber, will present an eight-week class for startup entrepreneurs, running from August 20 - October 8, to introduce them to Lean Startup Methodology and learn how to ideate, make decisions and ensure that your product remains customer-focused. The course will include hands-on materials, video guides and weekly sessions to help create effective habits for building and sustaining a strong team, as well as creating and maintaining a great product. For more information or to register, visit LVChamber.com or call 702.641.5822.

new mayor john lee delves into business priorities at north las vegas breakfast



The Metro Chamber's popular North Las Vegas Breakfast series will welcome Mayor John Lee of the City of North Las Vegas for its August 14 event at the Santa Fe Station Casino. During the breakfast, Mayor Lee will outline his vision for the city, including new economic development initiatives, priorities for financially stabilizing the area and creating new opportunities for growth. You won't want to miss Mayor Lee's first address to the Metro Chamber membership. For more information or to register, visit LVChamber.com or call 702.641.5822.



business after hours gets you into the “act” of networking

The Metro Chamber wants you to get in the act of building business connections. On August 29, Business After Hours will take over The ACT Nightclub, located inside The Shoppes at the Palazzo Resort Las Vegas, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. These popular networking opportunities give you a no-cost option to grow your business, meet new people and explore one of Las Vegas' newest and most talked-about hotspots. Please note that while some creative elements of this venue are adult in nature during its regular business hours, special consideration has been taken to ensure that all Business After Hours attendees are comfortable for duration of the Metro Chamber's event.

To register, visit LVChamber.com or call 702.641.5822.

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news you need



national clean energy summit returns on august 13

With a strong focus on the future of clean energy, the National Clean Energy Summit 6.0: Energizing Tomorrow returns on Tuesday, August 13. This annual conference, hosted by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, the Center for American Progress, the Clean Energy Project, UNLV and MGM Resorts International at Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino will bring together keynote speakers Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, and Ernest Moniz, Secretary of Energy, as well as clean energy visionaries, business leaders, students and bipartisan panels of state and local politicians. For more information on the program or to register, visit CleanEnergySummit.org.

new ramp meters activated on i-515 and i-15

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada and the Nevada Department of Transportation have activated new freeway ramp meters designed to regulate the flow of traffic. These new meters, which generally allow one car to pass per every three-to-four second green light, are now activated to help traffic merge on the I-515 (U.S. 95) and Charleston Blvd. during prime commuting hours (6:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:00-6:00 p.m.), as well as along northbound and southbound I-15 during heavy traffic periods. For more information, visit RTCSNV.com or NevadaDOT.com.

u.s. global business solutions pilot program aims to help small businesses export

A new multi-agency initiative will take a new approach for assessing and meeting the needs of small business exporters to help meet the goal of doubling U.S. exports in five years. The platform, U.S. Global Business Solutions, will be piloted for six months, with a full-scale rollout expected in early 2014. The initiative will aim to reduce the complexity for both exporters and lenders, streamline access to international experts and business services to exporters and establish a network of lending partners that can meet the financing needs of small business exporters. For more information on the U.S. Global Business Solutions Initiative, visit SBA.gov/content/us-exports-assistance-centers.

county continues to streamline business licensing

Local business owners in unincorporated Clark County can now apply for, renew and manage their business licenses online. These new features join other business-friendly changes as part of Clark County Business License Department's process improvement initiative, which includes eliminating more than 400 business licensing categories and replacing them with 20 standardized classifications, eliminating paperwork requirements through electronic filing and streamlining the business license application. Business owners can renew their licenses using a debit or credit card, ACH (Automated Clearing House) or e-check. For more information on these new services, visit ClarkCountyNV.gov/BusinessLicense.

for your
benefit

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etro Chamber members can see the savings with greater ease now. Launched in late July at Office Depot's newest location at 2170 N. Rainbow Blvd., the new feature of

the Office Depot savings program now designates which items are eligible for even deeper discounts. Simply look for the Metro Chamber logo to easily identify the everyday office supplies on which you can save the most money at this brand new Las Vegas Office Depot location. Chamber members also receive special pricing on copying, printing and finishing services through each store's copy and print center. To sign up for the Office Depot program and begin saving immediately, visit LVChamber.com/office-depot or call 702.641.5822.

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onnectivity is an important component to the success of a vibrant and diversified economy. A strong and reliable transportation system means economic stability, job creation and business growth for Southern Nevada and the entire state. For these reasons, the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the approval of the proposed fuel tax indexing ordinance under consideration by the Clark County Commission.

During the 77th Legislative Session, the Metro Chamber advocated for the successful passage of Assembly Bill

Clark County fuel taxes have not been increased since 1995. Since then, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) has received a flat nine cents from motor vehicle fuel tax. As our community's purchasing power has been reduced by 60 percent since 1995, our needs continue to grow.

As a result of AB 413, we now have the opportunity to invest and address our needs, but we must act now if we are serious about Southern Nevada's economic development and diversification. According to the RTC, the average annual cost is estimated to be \$16.35 per vehicle for the

"these projects will help reduce traffic time, improve traffic management, increase safety, and offer more route options for our residents."

413, which would enable Clark County to enact a fuel tax indexing ordinance for the purpose of transportation construction projects for the next three years. If the fuel tax ordinance passes the Clark County Commission any future increases beyond 2016 will require approval by voters in the November 2016 general election.

The Metro Chamber supports this broad-based approach because the funds would be solely used for transportation infrastructure projects in Southern Nevada. As a community of employers and employees, we must invest in regional and local transportation infrastructure now for our success today and in the future. All of the funds would be spent in Clark County, which will benefit our residents and local businesses.

first year, \$33.64 per vehicle for the second year and \$51.95 per vehicle for the third year. This is based on an increase of approximately 3 cents per gallon per year.

Once approved, it is estimated that in the first three years of indexing, the RTC will be able to issue bonds for approximately \$700 - \$800 million. This is significant because this bonding capability on the fuel tax indexing will help us address our community's transportation needs.

These funds will be used toward the construction of more than 183 transportation projects throughout Clark County, which include the completion of the 215 Beltway in the northwest, intersection development, construction of interchanges and lane expansions. This list of projects has been compiled as a collaborative effort from local

government entities, including Clark County and the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City. If the fuel tax indexing ordinance is approved by the Clark County Commission, it expected that construction will start as early as spring 2014.

These funds will also be used towards the construction of Nevada's portion of Interstate (I-11). As proposed, I-11 would include a bypass around Boulder City and would run northwest from Las Vegas along U.S. 95. The proposed highway would also extend southeast toward Phoenix along U.S. 93. I-11 would be the first new interstate constructed since 1985 and will be an economic game changer for Las Vegas and Phoenix, as it will connect two of the largest metropolitan cities in the nation that are currently not connected by an interstate. I-11 will help strengthen our economy, diversify sectors of our economy and spur job creation.

These projects will help reduce traffic time, improve traffic management, increase safety, and offer more route options for our residents. Additionally, Southern Nevada's economy will benefit from an estimated more than 5,000 new jobs (direct and non-direct) created by our community's investment in transportation infrastructure. As a result of these significant economic factors, the City Councils of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City have issued unanimous resolutions of support for the fuel tax indexing.

Major metropolitan areas in the intermountain west region, such as Denver, Phoenix and Salt Lake City, are already investing significantly in transportation infrastructure to attract new companies and support the expansion of existing business in their metro areas. We must do the same in Southern Nevada to be competitive within the region.

Even Washoe County (Northern Nevada) has also been able to invest in local transportation infrastructure so they can be more regionally competitive in attracting businesses to their city. The state legislature gave all of Nevada's counties, with the exception of Clark County, the

choice to enable and utilize fuel tax indexing since 2005. Southern Nevada was not part of the legislation. Since 2005, Washoe County has been able to utilize the fuel tax indexing method and they have successfully leveraged this for their community's benefit and become very competitive in their region.

Investing in regional transportation infrastructure will enhance travel times, mobility and safety for our community's workers and will ensure that we maintain economic opportunities and remain competitive for business growth.

If we do not support this investment, we will hinder our own capability to be competitive, to stimulate job creation and to make our roads safer. Without the approval of the fuel tax indexing by the Clark County Commission, the RTC will only be able to allocate approximately \$22 million a year, over the next ten years. Instead of funding and building 183 projects over the next three years, we would only be able to build one interchange per year, one mile of road per jurisdiction each year or one segment of the beltway without any bridges.

This will not meet our employers', employees' and families' needs now or over the next ten years. As the economy recovers, our population will continue to grow. However, Southern Nevada would be almost at a standstill while current route options become congested, travel time increases and mobility becomes more restrictive because of our lack of investment. Therefore, we must support efforts that will help modernize Southern Nevada's transportation network to create more economic activity and growth, as well as keep Southern Nevada citizens safer and more efficiently moving for decades to come.

Over the next eight weeks, the Clark County Commission will be voting on this issue. Please make your voice heard and encourage Commissioners to support this measure. For more information, please contact the Government Affairs team at 702.641.5822.



Photos courtesy of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada

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where has the
bizbug been?



The BizBug has been busy! Recent outings of the Metro Chamber's signature Volkswagen include celebrating National Slurpee Day at 7-Eleven with an iconic (and matching) blue raspberry Slurpee, playing fetch with some of the participants at The Glenn Group's Mob 'Paw'ty celebrating National Take Your Dog to Work Day, and helping Baskow & Associates, Branch Benefits Consultants and Rita's Ice Custard Happiness celebrate business milestones. Rounding out a packed schedule of appearances was the BizBug standing in as the perfect "something blue" at The Mob Museum's event promoting its historic courtroom as a wedding venue.

Does your business have something to celebrate? Request the BizBug at LVChamber.com or by emailing Nick Claus at nclaus@lvchamber.com.

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GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON VEGAS STARTUPS



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he momentum has been building. Community-wide, we've heard the about the renaissance of Las Vegas through the wave of startup entrepreneurs, businesses, innovative thinkers and creative visionaries

that have set down roots in the heart of our city. The support system that has been erected as these individuals formed a sense of place, purpose and culture has been extraordinary: coworking facilities, such as Work in Progress and Rob Roy's InNEVation Center Powered by Switch to inspire collaboration and interaction; Tech Jelly, the Downtown Speaker Series and Tech Cocktail events to help build the community and bring it forward with new ideas and constant energy. It's been in the works for awhile – so why is Las Vegas' startup ecosystem now really beginning to make waves?

“V2V really focuses on entrepreneurship and startups at a level that really takes it beyond the great idea to how that great idea affects your community”

The entrepreneurship scene in Las Vegas is about to get the global spotlight as South by Southwest Vision 2 Venture (SXSW V2V) comes to Las Vegas on August 11-14. SXSW, the annual conference of creative forces in media, business and entertainment, has become legendary in its own right; last year's conference in Austin garnered approximately 65,000 attendees to its trade show and more than 24,000 participants to the interactive portion of the week. The impact for the city in 2011 was about \$168 million, with more than 50,000 hotel rooms booked for the conference and almost \$38 million in media coverage. For an extension of the conference to take place in Las Vegas gives our city a major opportunity to expand its presence in circles of innovation, technology and entrepreneurship on a global stage, potentially bringing opportunities to diversify and develop our business base.

SXSW V2V is tailored specifically to startup entrepreneurs – connecting them with the capital, skills, connections and inspiration they need to launch and sustain successful businesses that contribute to the overall well being of their communities. The conference will converge entrepreneurs, startups, venture capitalists, community builders and mentors from around the world. “It's exciting to bring what happens and the culture of SXSW to Las Vegas. V2V really

focuses on entrepreneurship and startups at a level that really takes it beyond the great idea to how that great idea affects your community,” says Victoria Schramm, Special Events Manager at UP Global, a global partnership initiative from Startup Weekend and the Startup America Partnership, which connects entrepreneurs with their communities and focuses on ensuring that entrepreneurship is a focus of every community. “V2V is a big deal because it's providing an international spotlight to Las Vegas and shows the world that not only is Las Vegas an active and vibrant startup community, it's where the discussions on the future of the global startup community are happening,” explains Adam Kramer, the Metro Chamber's Director of Entrepreneurship.

With a variety of organizations making their official introductions, debuting new initiatives and announcing big news, SXSW V2V will be an event to watch on a global level. “Since the launch of UP Global this year, SXSW V2V will be the first public event for our organization and leadership to connect closely with our community, share more about the UP Global vision and discuss how we hope to support entrepreneurs in the future through our added community initiatives and educational programs,” says Joey Pomerence, CMO of UP Global.

Supporting startups now will give Las Vegas more opportunities to grow new industries, diversify our economy and most importantly, create good jobs. To help sustain the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce formed JumpStart Vegas, an entrepreneur-led initiative focused on providing high growth startups with educational programming, valuable business-building resources and connections to other entrepreneurs to help build a network of thriving startups in the community. “JumpStart Vegas serves as a hub between startup entrepreneurs and established businesses, giving them resources they need to be successful, whether it is expertise they need to build their business, consumers to be early adopters, or access to educational resources,” says Kramer. “JumpStart Vegas also has great community partners in UNLV, the InNEVation Center and the Downtown Project to create more of a bridge between startups and established businesses, and help these entrepreneurs succeed and help our economy move forward.”

Just before V2V takes over The Cosmopolitan, Startup Weekend, sponsored by the Metro Chamber and Switch, will welcome another 54-hour mega round of pitching, planning and business creation. UP Global's chairman, Steve Case (former chairman of America Online), will be

participating as one of the judges. With more than 45,000 Startup Weekend alumni around the world, these events focus on creating a viable product, providing a culture of support around the teams and building the connections for these founding companies to grow and succeed. Several local companies have come about from Startup Weekends, including LaunchKey and ClippPR, all of which are still involved in the startup ecosystem.

Supplementing these weekends as support structures for these entrepreneurs are innovation-focused events and groups, including Vegas Jelly and Tech Cocktail, an international media company that recently relocated its national headquarters to Las Vegas to contribute to the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Tech Cocktail's goal is to "amplify local tech companies, and give entrepreneurs a place to get informed, get connected and get inspired." Its events have transformed the way entrepreneurs showcase and pitch their businesses, gain support and momentum, and take advantage of business-building opportunities. The Tech Cocktail Celebrate event on October 23-25 is a national startup competition and conference that will not only showcase startups from around the country, but showcase Las Vegas to an innovative, forward-thinking group of visionaries.

One of the entrepreneurs who found his footing through Startup Weekend and the Downtown tech scene is Dan Ebel, founder of Room Champ, an intuitive search engine designed to give event planners, attendees and hospitality partners an ideal platform by which they can set up and

sell room blocks for events, conferences and meetings. An import from Ohio, Ebel is a UNLV graduate and well-versed in the Downtown Vegas tech scene, participating in Tech Cocktail events, Vegas Jelly (what he refers to as a 'gateway to Downtown') and finding support and resources within the Downtown Project's entrepreneurial component. Ebel's startup demonstrates what many startups in Las Vegas are doing - finding innovative, yet still practical, approaches to real world problems. Ebel is excited about all of the projects in the works with Downtown Las Vegas and the entrepreneurial scene that Vegas portrays to the rest of the world. "You can really feel the energy," he comments. "New people are always coming in, and help continually energize it. It's really exciting."

With more entrepreneurs and startups moving to Las Vegas from other areas and clusters of new projects in the works, Ebel is eager to see how the energy sustains and manifests as the buzz builds. International media attention is also creating more attention about what's happening in Las Vegas and what it means for the global startup community. Rory Carroll of *The Guardian* recently wrote about Tony Hsieh's dedication to the revitalization of downtown's urban core, citing the flocking of young entrepreneurs from all over the world to Downtown Las Vegas. In July, the *New York Times* also depicted the "communal entrepreneurship" of Downtown Las Vegas by profiling Hsieh and the Downtown Project, and how so many aspects of the urban core are pulling together to create a new community in the area. As Ebel says, "You can be a part of a community or you can shape it. We have a chance



Photos courtesy of Kristi Overgaard and The inNEVation Center



to create the community that we want, not fit into one that already exists.” With the opportunities for getting on the ground floor of a movement that has not only the capital, resources and vision behind it, but passionate people who have taken unique and creative approaches to creating a community and an ecosystem out of the startups in Las Vegas, it’s easy to see how the international community has begun to take note of its potential.

There is a common thread to the international sparks of excitement about the entrepreneurship scene and the Downtown Las Vegas revitalization, and that is the number of creative individuals, groups and organizations taking part in it. Creating change isn’t just about one organization or individual creating ripples. To sustain the momentum and bring it even further to enhance our community and economy, there are ways to get involved and support the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Las Vegas. Through JumpStart Vegas, established businesses can link in with these startup entrepreneurs in their founding days through mentorship, office hours and donating services and hours, thus leading to building important and key relationships in the community and engaging in multi-level partnerships. Ebel suggests that established businesses be open to trying new technology and offering feedback to entrepreneurs, from the viability of a product or service to fulfill a specific need, to the user-friendliness of the software or platform. Schramm encourages established businesses to come out and support Startup Weekends to promote community and caring, citing how important that type of resource can be to those fledgling businesses and ideas. For the global spotlight to sustain and for Las Vegas to keep running with the torch as a startup epicenter, the community needs to be involved. The success of these startup entrepreneurs is pivotal to the future sustenance and viability of the community in which we are all stakeholders.

JumpStart Vegas: Getting Involved

JumpStart Vegas, the entrepreneur-led initiative of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, has a full schedule of events and educational programming in which it is actively participating and partnering. It’s a great time to get involved!

August 8-10: Startup Weekend – The public is welcome to check out the Friday evening “pitch night” activities and see how the action starts. All ideas for the weekend are pitched, and teams form around the most popular ideas, kicking off a frantic 54 hours of building, researching, designing and reinventing. Teams also receive feedback from local business leaders. For more information, visit lasvegas.startupweekend.org.

August 11-14: SXSW V2V – The converging of innovative leaders from startup and creative industries hosts four days of interactive panels, networking, keynote addresses, mentoring sessions and creative brainstorming. Metro Chamber Director of Entrepreneurship Adam Kramer will be moderating the panel that gives an inside glimpse at the entrepreneurs and innovators who are transforming Downtown Las Vegas into one of the fastest-growing startup communities in the world. For more information on the conference, visit sxswv2v.com.

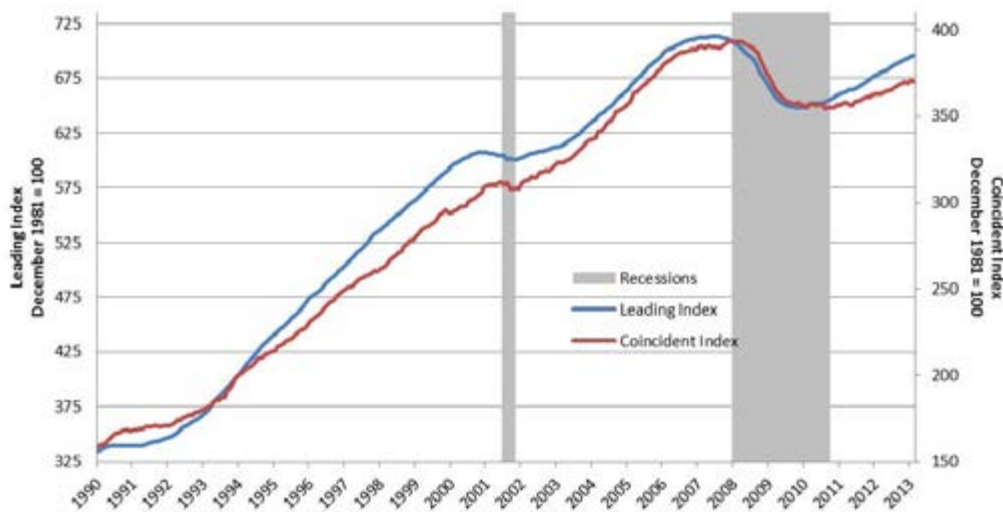
August 20-October 8: LUXr Core Curriculum for Startups – This educational programming series introduces startup entrepreneurs to methods used by the Lean Startup Community to ideate, make rapid decisions and ensure your product remains customer-focused. Visit LVChamber.com for details.

October 23-25: Tech Cocktail Celebrate – This national pitch competition and conference from the internationally recognized media company that recently set up operations in Las Vegas will bring together startups from all over the country. For more information, visit celebrate.tech.co.

know the numbers

SOUTHERN NEVADA ECONOMIC INDEXES POST YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH

CBER Southern Nevada Economic Indicators



Leading Index

| Series | Date | Latest Period | Change Previous Period | Change Year Ago |
|---|--------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Arizona Index | Mar-13 | 743.77 | 0.12% | 1.92% |
| California Index | Mar-13 | 597.95 | 0.41% | 3.88% |
| S&P 500 Index | Mar-13 | 1500.34 | 1.54% | 11.28% |
| McCarran Total Passengers | Mar-13 | 3,491,376 | 3.13% | 0.92% |
| Overall Index Change | | 696.23 | 0.25% | 2.53% |
| Sources: Philadelphia Federal Reserve, McCarran International Airport, St. Louis Federal Reserve (FRED) | | | | |

Coincident Index

| Series | Date | Latest Period | Change Previous Period | Change Year Ago |
|--|--------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Las Vegas MSA Nonfarm Employment | Mar-13 | 834,962 | 0.05% | 2.10% |
| Las Vegas MSA Household Employment | Mar-13 | 892,074 | -0.23% | 1.88% |
| Overall Index Change | | 370.12 | -0.09% | 1.99% |
| Sources: Current Employment Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | | | | |

All four components of the Center for Business and Economic Research's Southern Nevada Leading Index increased for March 2013 and are up year-over-year. This suggests that Southern Nevada should experience overall growth through third quarter 2013. Conflicting jobs reports led to an overall decrease in March for the coincident index.

Graphs and analysis provided courtesy of The Center for Business and Economic Research at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. For more information, visit CBER.UNLV.edu.

chamber insurance & benefits

BE “SWIM SAFE!”



A

August is one of the hottest months of the year, and many of us choose to cool down by hitting the pool or the beach. You and your family can stay safe by following these general guidelines:

- Learn to swim. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. Always swim with a buddy; never swim alone. The American Red Cross has swimming courses for people of any age and swimming ability. To enroll in a swim course, contact your local Red Cross chapter.
- Swim in areas supervised by a lifeguard.
- Read and obey all rules and posted signs.
- Children or inexperienced swimmers should take precautions, such as wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) when around the water.
- Watch out for the dangerous “too’s” – too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun and too much strenuous activity.
- Set water safety rules for the whole family based on swimming abilities. For example, inexperienced swimmers should stay in water that is chest deep or lower.
- Be knowledgeable of the water environment you are in and its potential hazards, such as deep and shallow areas, currents, depth changes, obstructions and where the entry and exit points

are located. The more informed you are, the more aware you will be of hazards and safe practices.

- Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.
- Use a feet-first entry when entering the water. Enter headfirst only when the area is clearly marked for diving and has no obstructions.
- Do not mix alcohol with swimming, diving or boating. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body’s ability to stay warm.
- Know how to prevent, recognize, and respond to emergencies.

The information is brought to you by Chamber Insurance & Benefits, administrator of the Chamber Health Plan. For information on insurance coverage options for your business, go to ChamberIB.com. This month’s information is brought to you by the American Red Cross (redcross.org).

what's happening

PLACES TO BE. PEOPLE TO MEET. THINGS TO KNOW. IN **AUGUST**



how
to
register:

Visit LVChamber.com and
click on the Events Calendar.

Call 702.641.5822.

05

**MONDAY, AUGUST 5
CHAMBER CONNECTIONS**

Join this established dedicated leads group made up of professionals from a variety of industries. Limited openings available; call for space availability.

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

See website for details.

\$120 every six months. Chamber members only.

06

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
VYP MORNING BUZZ**

Enjoy a light breakfast and meet VYP Ambassadors and members of the Advisory Council for an informal Q&A session.

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

The InNEVation Center

6795 Edmond St.

Las Vegas, NV 89118

Complimentary.

06

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
CHAMBER CONNECTIONS**

See August 5 for details.

12

**MONDAY, AUGUST 12
VEGAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
TOASTMASTERS**

Grow your speaking, presentation and leadership skills at this special VYP chapter of Toastmasters.

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Usr lib (In the Emergency Arts Building)

520 E. Fremont St.

Las Vegas, NV 89101

\$60 to join, \$36 every six months.

13

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 13
CHAMBER VOICES TOASTMASTERS**

Become a better speaker and a more effective presenter by joining Chamber Voices Toastmasters. Open to all members.

10:45 a.m. - Noon

Penta Building Group

181 E. Warm Springs Rd.

Las Vegas, NV 89119

\$54 every six months. Guests always complimentary.

14

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14
NORTH LAS VEGAS BREAKFAST**

Mayor John Lee will discuss initiatives impacting the City of North Las Vegas and emerging issues that are important to Metro Chamber members doing business in North Las Vegas.

7:30 - 8:00 a.m. Registration and Networking

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Program

Santa Fe Station Casino

Centennial Ballroom

4949 N. Rancho Dr.

Las Vegas, NV 89108

\$25 for Members, \$35 for Non-members

Sponsored by: Chamber Insurance & Benefits and Wells Fargo

15

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 15
VYP WHITE HOT MIXER**

Don your coolest summer whites and join other Vegas Young Professionals inside the newly remodeled GHOSTBAR for VYP's signature annual event.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

GHOSTBAR

Palms Casino Resort

4321 W. Flamingo Rd.

Las Vegas, NV 89103

Online: \$10 for members

At the door: \$15 for members

Presenting Sponsors: Chamber Insurance & Benefits, Cox, UnitedHealthcare, Wells Fargo

00 - CHAMBER EVENT

00 - VYP EVENT



21

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21 BUSINESS POWER LUNCHEON FEATURING U.S. SENATOR HARRY REID

Don't miss Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid as he discusses federal issues impacting Southern Nevada businesses. This luncheon has sold out quickly in the past, and early registration is recommended.

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration and Networking
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Program

The Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas
3960 Las Vegas Blvd. S.
Las Vegas, NV 89119

\$50.00 Members, \$65.00 Non-Members

\$500 table of 10

Sponsored by: Arcata Associates, Chamber Insurance & Benefits, KNPR, Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood, Switch

26

MONDAY, AUGUST 26 VEGAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TOASTMASTERS

See August 12 for details.

27

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 CHAMBER VOICES TOASTMASTERS

See August 13 for details.

27

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 LUXR CORE CURRICULUM FOR STARTUPS

See August 20 for details.

29

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Get caught in the "ACT" of creating new business connections during Business After Hours at The ACT Nightclub, a unique and theatrical backdrop for building new business relationships.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The ACT Nightclub

The Shoppes at the Palazzo

3327 Las Vegas Blvd. S.

Las Vegas, NV 89109

Complimentary for Chamber members and their guest.

Sponsored by: Chamber Insurance & Benefits

19

MONDAY, AUGUST 19 CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

See August 5 for details.

20

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 MORNING MINGLE

Learn how to maximize your Metro Chamber membership by attending this breakfast hosted by the Prospectors, who will give firsthand accounts of how they used the Metro Chamber to build their businesses.

7:30 - 8:00 a.m. Check-in & Networking

8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Program

SpringHill Suites by Marriott

Las Vegas Convention Center

2989 Paradise Rd.

Las Vegas, NV 89109

Sponsored by: Chamber Insurance & Benefits

20

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

See August 5 for details.

20

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 LUXR CORE CURRICULUM FOR STARTUPS

This series introduces you to methods used by the Lean Startup Community to ideate, make rapid-decisions and ensure your product remains customer-focused.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The inNEVation Center

6795 Edmond St

Las Vegas, NV 89118

\$375 for first team member (all classes)

\$75 for each additional team member

Presenting Sponsors: Chamber Insurance & Benefits,

Nevada State Bank

METRO CHAMBER BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM TAKES NATIONAL HONORS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY

staff spotlight

The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce Business Development team, a hard-working group of individuals committed to a vibrant, thriving and expanding business community in the Las Vegas Valley, was recognized in July by thousands of their peers at the annual American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Momentum convention in Oklahoma City. During the conference, the Metro Chamber team took national top honors for membership sales for the tenth consecutive year, earning each of them a lifetime achievement award in the ACCE Circle of Champions. Representing a dedication to the Las Vegas community through connecting the businesses that comprise it and make it so exciting, each of these individuals are committed to creating more opportunities for the business community in Southern Nevada.



Vance Adams, First Place

Vance Adams has been with the Metro Chamber nearly ten years, and is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of Metro Chamber members, their businesses and the community as a whole. His philosophy is that of “purposeful work,” in that his activities help strengthen and further the businesses with which he interacts on a daily basis. During his time away from the Metro Chamber, Vance enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, traveling throughout the South and teaching financial literacy. He is also active in helping to find resources for women and children who have been victims of human trafficking.



Chris Wilson, Second Place

Chris Wilson has served the Metro Chamber since 2002. Prior to joining the Metro Chamber, she helped develop informational programming for relocating to and visiting Las Vegas, and worked closely with the Chamber. She likes to say that she waited years for her current position, since she had always wanted to be a part of the membership sales team. Chris most enjoys seeing a business get involved and take advantage of its membership benefits, and knowing that the Metro Chamber played a part in that success. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, snow skiing, water skiing and Broncos football.



Roya Khavari, Third Place

Roya Khavari has been with the Chamber world for more than 15 years, beginning in Detroit and moving to Las Vegas five years ago. She truly enjoys seeing the engagement of the business community here in Las Vegas, and how open business owners are to helping one another thrive. Roya truly enjoys seeing how businesses can use their membership to help them grow. She also heads up Chamber Connections, a networking and leads-gathering group, which recently launched into a second networking group due to its popularity. While she's not working, she can be found cooking and spending time with her family.

Congratulations, once again, to the Metro Chamber's business development account executives for their accomplishments, and for helping to make the Las Vegas business community so dynamic!

Business Excellence AWARDS

LUNCHEON

SAVE *The* DATE

CELEBRATE THE BEST OF LOCAL BUSINESS!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10
PARIS LAS VEGAS

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

\$50: MEMBERS | \$65: NON-MEMBERS | \$500: TABLE OF 10

EXCLUSIVELY SPONSORED BY:

NEVADA STATE BANK
THE DOOR TO YOUR FUTURE



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET
OR TABLE, VISIT LVCHAMBER.COM OR CALL 702.641.5822

spotlights

(B) Curt Howell

Market President - Humana

Curt Howell has been with the Humana organization for more than a decade. Prior to his current position he served as Director of Provider Contracting/Administration in Las Vegas from April 1999 to April 2000. Before joining Humana, Howell served as executive director for North American Medical Management and as operations manager for Sierra Health Services, Inc. in Las Vegas. Howell earned a Masters of Health Administration from the Medical College of Virginia and holds a BS in Human Biology from the University of Utah.

(A) John Repetti

Senior Vice President & Director of Operations, Downtown Region; General Manager, Fremont Hotel & Casino - Boyd Gaming Corporation

In 2003, John Repetti was promoted to the position of senior vice president and director of operations for the Boyd Gaming downtown region. Repetti helps to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Fremont Hotel & Casino facility, as well as being responsible for all downtown Boyd Gaming properties. Repetti attended an international school of gaming before landing his first job as a dealer at the California Hotel & Casino in January 1976.



(D) Ronnie Dressler President - Poolserv

Ronnie Dressler is a Las Vegas native, and founder of PoolServ, LLC. With more than 15 years of experience in the pool service industry, he has been able to execute his company vision of creating a new standard in the pool service marketplace. His creation and implementation of the SERV approach which focuses on Safety, Efficiency, Reliability, and Verification has enabled him to give customers confidence and peace of mind that their pool needs will be met by people they can trust.

(C) Angel Williams

Director, Community Relations and Business Development - Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino

Angel Williams is a 16-year veteran of the shopping center industry in retail and tourism marketing. Williams serves as a liaison between the shopping center and its network of 200 retail, restaurant and entertainment merchants, as well as community and nonprofit organizations, to develop and execute community campaigns raising awareness and funds for shared initiatives. Williams is a graduate of Leadership Las Vegas Class of 2013, the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce business and community leadership program.

president's
club

Nami Oneda**Founder/Owner –
Barre Definitions**

After retiring from a professional dance career, Nami Oneda studied all styles of fitness, and in 2007, she was introduced to the barre-based fitness method in New York City, where she was trained by former trainers of the original the barre fitness method. With the most extensive teaching experience in barre in all of Las Vegas, Oneda opened Barre Definitions in 2012 to inspire her clients in achieving their best fitness level.

Robert Beville**President – Harmony Homes**

Prior to joining Harmony Homes in 2009, Robert Beville served as managing director for The Atalon Group, an operational turnaround management firm working on projects that included the Lake Las Vegas community. Beville is on the board of directors for Desert Capital REIT. He is a Certified Public Accountant (inactive) and a member of the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association and the Turnaround Management Association.

Amy Meyer**President – Paul E. & Helen S. Meyer Foundation**

Amy Meyer, granddaughter of the founders, became the foundation's president in 1999. Meyer's passion for disadvantaged and struggling youth led to the development of a new non-profit, the White Horse Youth Ranch (WHY Ranch), that offers free riding lessons using rescued horses to help build self-esteem and give renewed hope to youth in Las Vegas.



executive
level

Victor Fuchs**President – Helix Electric**

Victor Fuchs began his electrical contracting career at Helix Electric in 1984, and in 2001 acquired ownership of the Las Vegas division. His community involvement includes Los Vaqueros, Opportunity Village, Communities in Schools, Street Teens, Links for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Candlelighters and YMCA, as well as numerous youth teams, 4H clubs and many other charitable organizations.

William Nelson**Shareholder – Piercy, Bowler,
Taylor & Kern**

William (Bill) Nelson is involved in all areas of accounting and auditing for Piercy Bowler Taylor & Kern. Nelson holds a BS in Accounting and is CPA certified in Nevada and California. He is active in the community, participating in several youth sports programs and boy scouting, and is a member of Board of Trustees for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Jeff Shaw**Chief Executive Officer –
Southwest Gas Corporation**

Jeff Shaw joined Southwest Gas in 1988 as director of internal audit. He was promoted several times throughout the years before being named CEO. Shaw serves on the boards of the American Gas Association, the Desert Research Institute Foundation, the UNLV Foundation, the Western Energy Institute and the Las Vegas Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

member insights

AS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL, WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE TO STARTUP ENTREPRENEURS?

My tip: networking. I find the most effective networking is being sincere in building business relationships. I like to touch base with those individuals that I know but I also branch out and seek a couple of people who I have not met and get to know more about them and their business.

[Heather Mongie, LLC REALTOR - Exit Realty Platinum Group](#) (A)

I suggest they get advice on the best entity and tax structure for their business, obtain the proper licenses, make sure they have strong agreements for employees and contractors, set up a good accounting system and obtain the capital they will need to get through the startup phase.

[Greg Bruce - Bruce & Banka Certified Public Accountants](#)

The best advice I could give to startup entrepreneurs are the ones that I told myself during the start of my business; stand by and believe in your vision despite any hurdles that cross your path, don't accept failure, and supersede all of your expectations!

[Louie N. Cellona, President & Co-Founder - Liaison Holdings, LLC](#) (B)

The best advice I can give is to be humble, and ask lots of questions. If you don't know something, be honest and ask for help. There are lots of great businesses that have failed because the owner was too nervous – or arrogant – to ask for help, and then they make massive mistakes.

[John Pinnington, Owner - AA Printing Service](#) (C)

Collaborate with other business owners. Explain your issues and nine times out of ten someone has had the same issue and knows a resolution. Pick the best one and apply it to minimize your learning curve.

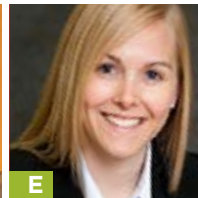
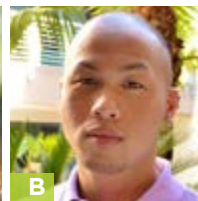
[Avel Ureno, Vice President - BatteriesInAFash.com, Inc.](#) (D)

Don't make an enemy by accident.

[Lindsay Williams, Market Development Manager - CenturyLink](#) (E)

Be willing to change and adapt quickly as the business evolves, get some raving fans early in the business and passionately market your product or service even if it's not perfect.

[Darrell Evans, Co-Founder - Yokel Local Internet Marketing](#) (F)



Analyze the market and your competitors before launching a new project or effort. Network and learn from more successful entrepreneurs and listen to what they have to say!

[Jayna I. Rodriguez, Account Executive, Rental Operations - Holiday Inn Club Vacations](#)

Know and understand the numbers. I believe the best way to do that is a short lesson in bookkeeping. They don't need anything extensive; just an introduction to the basics and a review of what financials are. Hire someone to do the work but know what that someone is doing.

[Dida Clifton, CEO/Founder - TheOfficeSquad.com](#)

Reflecting on my forty-year career as a dentist, my advice to a startup entrepreneur is to first make sure that the business that you have chosen to pursue is one that you really want to do. Choose one that excites you, one that gives you satisfaction and one that you can be passionate about.

[Joely Rammos, Director of Community Outreach - Eastern Canyon Dental](#)

north las vegas

REFLECTIONS OF A TURNAROUND TOWN: A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JOHN LEE, CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS

I am working to address the following four specific challenges facing North Las Vegas: financial, image, communications and unity. In many ways these challenges are similar to the challenges facing members of the Metro Chamber, both large and small. I firmly believe that North Las Vegas is a town well positioned for a turnaround and our community's success is vital to the region's success; however, there is much work to be done to restore our community and in many ways this begins with our image.

“change begins by recognizing where
you are and understanding where
you want to go”

Image is a critical element of success. For most businesses, a positive image can take years to cultivate and disappear in an instant; for others, a positive image is both difficult to get and difficult to lose. This is particularly true for large, relatively stable institutions.

When it comes to image, you reap what you sow. In most instances, our image is simply a reflection of our actions. For North Las Vegas, some of our image is not our fault, but some of our image has been deservedly earned. Our history of not playing well with others and torching bridges (not just burning them), has been earned – even celebrated. While this past may be water under the smoldering bridges, the legacy of the image is something I have to deal with as the new mayor.

North Las Vegas needs to repair its image! Not long ago, our community struggled with the typical challenges of an inner city, such as crime, poverty and distressed social services. Today, the challenges facing our community are bad leadership and financial distress. In fact, during my first full week on the job, the global financial agency Fitch Ratings greeted me by downgrading our city's bonds to a negative outlook. Although I inherited this image, I now own it and know it is my responsibility to change it. Sooner or later, the “Under New Management” signs must come down, because customers, or constituents in my case, don't really care who caused the problems. They just want, and expect, good service.

Change begins by recognizing where you are and understanding where you want to go. Similar to planning a hike, you need to know



your location and destination before you can plot a course. Many times business owners or politicians lack self-awareness of their situation, despite the warning signs. I have the advantage of using the reports of Wall Street's financial analysts, stories from newspaper reporters and the minutes from public hearings as blueprints to clearly spell out our problems and pinpoint where we are so we can begin planning how to get to where we want to go.

Many times as business owners your endeavors take place in echo chambers where customers, clients, employees and competitors willingly expose your problems. Successful businesses learn to take the criticism and advice, and constructively use it to improve their products or services. When faced with a crisis in identity, it is important to have an immediate, persistent, and measured response. Ultimately, our reaction and behavior to change our image becomes the mirror reflecting our image; our image becomes our behavior. North Las Vegas will be considered a “Turnaround Town” because our efforts to repair and save our town will become our new image.

member news

PRESIDENT'S CLUB MEMBER | EXECUTIVE LEVEL

The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce is proud to provide members with a place to publish their current announcements. Email news items to pr@lvchamber.com or fax to Public Relations at 702.735.0320.

upcoming events

The **Las Vegas Rescue Mission** will hold its second-annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes event Saturday, August 3, at 3 p.m. The event is a one-mile walk to benefit those struggling to survive on the streets of Las Vegas. To sign-up, visit vegasrescue.org/donate/walkamile.

The NV Energy Senior Energy Assistance Expo provides a one-stop-shop for seniors to access resources and information on financial stability. Seniors may receive energy assistance through Project REACH (if they are 62 years of age and older), make payment arrangements and receive help through a variety of social service programs. **NV Energy** funds Project REACH, an energy assistance program that is administrated by the United Way of Southern Nevada. The event will be August 3. For more information, visit nvenergy.com.

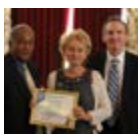
community service

The Engelstad Family Foundation recently provided a \$1 million grant to **YMCA of Southern Nevada** to support the organization's Strong Kids Campaign. The annual campaign funds low-income youth, individuals and families so they can participate in the many programs, including summer camp, after school care, youth fitness classes and more, the Y provides for the Las Vegas community.

From now until August 22, **Nathan Adelson Hospice** locations will serve as drop-off points for much-needed school supplies for students at Robert L. Taylor and Sunrise Acres elementary schools. School supplies, such as backpacks, crayons, tissues, binders, etc., can be dropped off between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. For locations, please visit nah.org.

Mark Wayman from **The Foundation, LLC** and Anne Wayman from **Kaercher Campbell and Associates** recently sponsored four charities - Safe Nest, Shade Tree, Olive Crest and Big Brothers Big Sisters - for the annual VEGAS Inc. Giving Guide.

congratulations



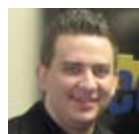
The Justice League of Nevada recently recognized **City National Bank** for its ongoing support of the IOLTA program that provides legal aid to low-income communities in Nevada. Nevada Supreme Court Justice Michael Douglas and a Justice League representative joined in recognizing the bank.

Chambers USA has ranked **McDonald Carano Wilson LLP's** commercial litigation practice as Band 1 in its most recent edition.



The Nevada chapter of the American College of Physicians presented Dr. Nicholas Vogelzang, an oncologist with **Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada**, the 2013 Laureate Award for his exemplary commitment to excellence in healthcare.

The Southern Nevada Science Teachers' Association recently presented Amelia Gulling, the **Desert Research Institute's** Green Power Program Administrator, with the Friend of Science Award.



Commercial Roofers, Inc. recently awarded their annual scholarship to fourth year architecture student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Alex Klenk.

Nevada Public Radio's "State of Nevada" was presented a Gabriel Award in the category of Ecumenical & Interreligious - Local Release for the program "Justice or Forgiveness?" The Gabriel Awards recognize excellence in broadcasting and are sponsored by the Catholic Academy for Communications Arts Professionals.

At the 2013 SBA Small Business Awards, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognized **Nevada State Bank** Lender of the Year awards in the following categories: Platinum - 3rd Party Loan Production, Gold - 7(a) Loan Production and Silver - 7(a) Money Volume.

announcements

Boys and Girls Clubs of Las Vegas and **Boys and Girls Clubs of Henderson** announced plans to merge, creating a stronger organization to better serve the more than 30,000 youths in 17 locations throughout Clark County. The new name for the two leading nonprofits will be Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada.



Millenium Staffing Services promoted Debbie Schmidt to vice president of staffing and Michelle Gianopoulos to senior staffing manager.



Burke Construction Group elevated Ralph Murphy to director of regional development / governmental affairs.

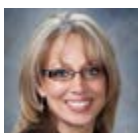


Mark A. Clayton, a shareholder in the gaming and regulatory law department of **Lionel Sawyer and Collins**, was appointed chair of the Gaming Law Committee of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section.



Veteran journalist and communications professional Amanda Llewellyn is the newest account executive at **The Ferraro Group**.

Cathe Shandle has been promoted to national account manager at **Ubiquita, Inc.**



The estate planning law firm of **Jeffrey L. Burr, Ltd.** announced that Sandy Simpson assumed a new role as marketing coordinator, in addition to her continued role as family services representative for the Elder Law Division.

Jason Loverude has been brought on as director of marketing at **The Equity Group**.



Southern Hills Hospital announced that Chief Executive Officer Kimball Anderson has been appointed to the American College of Healthcare Executives as the interim regent representing the State of Nevada.



Nevada State Bank named Brian Solomon as vice president/SBA business development officer, where he is responsible for the growth of SBA lending that meets U.S. Small Business Administration guidelines.

Bridal Spectacular announced that Julie Kuenzi has joined the team as event manager.

Johnson Jacobson Wilcox elevated William Hinsdale and Michelle Baird as senior staff accountants and Keith Westergaard and Cassidy Betschart have joined the firm as staff accountants.



The American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants has elected Kelly K. Welter, CPA, partner at **Serl Keefer Welter CPAs, LLP**, as its national president.

Dianna Russo, managing partner of **Houldsworth, Russo and Company**, was recently appointed to a two-year term as a member of the board of directors of **Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada**.

Rebecca Miltenberger, associate in **Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's** Las Vegas office, was named to JDRF Las Vegas Chapter Board of Directors.

Kolesar & Leatham added three seasoned litigators to the law firm. Aaron R. Maurice and Jason M. Wiley have joined the firm as shareholders and Brittany N. Wood has joined as an associate.

wheeling and dealing

Gold Mine Bar and Grill, located inside the **Holiday Inn Club Vacations at Desert Club Resort**, has recently undergone major renovations and expansions to offer both inside and outdoor dining for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Desert Research Institute scientists were featured in a PBS NewsHour report examining how the deadly Valley Fever infection is spreading across the Southwest U.S. The report highlighted the work of DRI's Dr. Vic Etyemezian and George Nikolich in Las Vegas. Watch the PBS NewsHour feature and read more at dri.edu.



Port of Subs inside the 76 Gas Station on the corner of Flamingo and Durango is now open.

member to member

RENEW EARLY: SAVE PREMIUM UPDATES TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT YOU NEED TO KNOW



M

uch information has been publicized over the past two years about the implementation of the Affordable Care Act on January 1, 2014. Insurance professionals and financial planners have spent countless hours researching the law so that they can properly advise their clients and help them make good decisions among what might appear as confusion. One strategy being announced throughout the insurance industry in an effort to mitigate the well-publicized rate increases is to “early renew” plans before the end of 2013.

Renewing early would allow employers to keep their current benefits program for another year. This would give policyholders time for some of the unknown kinks in the law to be worked out as new regulations and delays of the Affordable Care Act continue to be released.

The latest news on July 2, 2013, came from the United States Treasury Department stating that the enforcement of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act employer mandate will be delayed until January 1, 2015. The employer mandate, sometimes referred to as the “pay or play tax,” requires employers with 50 or more full-time employees or full-time “equivalent” employees to offer a healthcare plan that provides minimum essential benefits to all full-time employees as well as meet certain reporting requirements. This employer mandate impacts large employers who currently do not offer their employees medical benefits.

It is important to note that while the large employer mandate has been delayed until 2015, the requirement for individuals to purchase health insurance remains unchanged. Individuals who do not receive employer-sponsored insurance are responsible to purchase medical coverage for themselves and their dependents. Failing to do so could result in a penalty equaling up to 1% of the household taxable income for 2014, up to 2% for 2015, and 2% for 2016.

Before finalizing any benefits package program for 2014, both large and small employers are recommended to consult with their insurance broker, financial or legal advisor for additional guidance. Doing so could help prevent unwanted financial consequences that could have otherwise been avoided.



By: William Wright, President,
Chamber Insurance & Benefits, LLC

healthcareheroes2013



Save The Date!

September 10th
Southern Nevada

September 12th
Northern Nevada

In September, the 8th annual Healthcare Heroes event will honor 20 individuals that contributed to the welfare of healthcare in our state. In conjunction with the report, Nevada Business Magazine, along with corporate sponsor Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, will publish a special report in the September issue featuring the 2013 Heroes who were chosen by a blue-ribbon panel of experts in the healthcare field.

Join us for the 2013 event and mark your calendar today!

**For more information about Healthcare Heroes
or to be a part of this special report,
go to nevadabusiness.com/events or call 702.735.7003.**

P R E S E N T E D B Y

Anthem 

Nevada Business
the decision maker's magazine

 **HealthCare Partners**
Nevada

NEVADA STATE BANK
PROFESSIONAL BANKING 

DR
DESERT RADIOLOGISTS

HOLLAND & HART
THE LAW OUT WEST 

ribbon cuttings

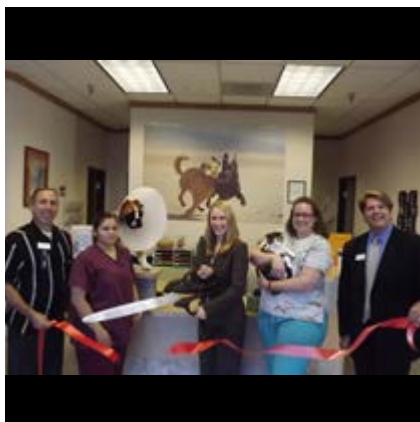
CELEBRATING BUSINESS GROWTH

To arrange your ribbon cutting, contact Georgia Allen at 702.586.3838 or email gallen@lvchamber.com



PC J.P. MORGAN CHASE

J.P. Morgan Chase commemorated its 50th Chase branch in Nevada at 9350 Sun City Blvd. with local dignitaries and J.P.Morgan Chase staff. This branch boasts two drive through windows with teller service that includes golf cart access. Call 702.352.0397 or visit jpmorganchase.com.



THE SPAY & NEUTER CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

The Spay & Neuter Center of Southern Nevada celebrated its grand opening at 3475 E. Flamingo Rd. with its new owner, Dr. Taryn Griffith. It offers low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and vaccines to the Las Vegas community in an effort to decrease pet overpopulation. Call 702.240.7729 or visit spayneuterlv.com.



BMM TEST LABS

BMM Test Labs, providing professional technical and regulatory compliance services to the gaming industry since 1981, celebrated its Chamber membership. BMM employs more than 200 people in 12 countries and operates 11 gaming labs. Visit bmm.com.



KISS BY MONSTER MINI GOLF

KISS by Monster Mini Golf commemorated its anniversary at 4503 Paradise Rd. It has 18 holes of indoor, glow-in-the-dark, custom-designed, KISS-themed mini golf, arcade games, KISS gift shop, KISS gallery, private VIP room, fantastic KISS-themed event rooms and wedding chapel. Call 702.558.6256 or visit monsterminigolf.com.



DEER SPRINGS MODERN DENTISTRY

Deer Springs Modern Dentistry and Orthodontics celebrated its grand opening at 640 E. Deer Springs Way, Ste. 180. Call 702.399.3800 or visit visitdeerspringsmoderndentistry.com.



BELLA'S BOUTIQUE

Bella's Boutique commemorated its grand opening at 2400 S. Jones Blvd. Ste. 4. It is an affordable boutique that offers everything from casual wear to bridal selections, and has an onsite seamstress. For more information, call 702.493.4490 or email bellasboutique2014@gmail.com.

SPONSORED BY:



PC - President's Club

EL - Executive Level

\$ - Chamber Member Discount



MILAN INSTITUTE

Milan Institute celebrated its grand opening at 710 S. Tonopah Dr. Milan Institute was founded in 1985 by the Yasuda family and has successfully graduated more than 25,000 students. Call 702.671.4242 or visit milaninstitute.edu.



H.O.P.E.

H.O.P.E. (Healing, Overcoming, Preventing, Empowering) Counseling Services, LLC commemorated its grand opening at 2820 W. Charleston Blvd. Ste. C23. H.O.P.E. Counseling specializes in post-traumatic syndrome and serves all ages providing individual, family and group counseling. Offering individualized care, it is dedicated to restoring "H.O.P.E." for a brighter tomorrow. Call 702.437.4673 or visit hopecounselingservices.net.



BONEFISH GRILL

Bonefish Grill celebrated its grand reopening at 6527 Las Vegas Blvd. S., in the Town Square shopping center. The restaurant features a spacious dining room with an energetic bar area, well known for its community tables and lively music. Call 702.407.0980 or visit bonefishgrill.com.



LUCYVEGAS.COM

LucyVegas.com, your personal guide to everything Vegas, celebrated its anniversary at 4955 S. Durango Rd., Ste. 114-16. It is a resource for the inside scoop on everything that's going on in the city... from exciting nightlife offerings to the hottest entertainment venues and exclusive opportunities to meet the Lucy Vegas Girls. We do the work while you have the fun! Call 702.222.0012 or visit lucyvegas.com.



CAPRIOTTI'S

Capriotti's commemorated its newest location at 6599 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Ste. 209, at Town Square. Capriotti's offers great tasting sandwiches using fresh roasted turkey. The "Bobbie" was voted the greatest sandwich in America. Call 702.269.1959 or visit capriottis.com



FINDLAY CHEVROLET

Findlay Chevrolet celebrated Racing Appreciation Day and its new Chamber membership. Located at 6800 S. Torrey Pines Dr., Findlay Chevrolet has a wide selection of new and pre-owned vehicles for lease or sale and offers great second chance financing options. It has seven quick lube bays and a service department that is open until 9:00 p.m. Call 702.982.4000 or visit findlaychevrolet.com.

in the know

DID YOU TAKE A SUMMER VACATION? WELL, YOUR TAXES DIDN'T

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Hopefully you have been able to take a few days off or even a family vacation to escape the Las Vegas heat. A recent AAA survey reports that more than two-thirds of Americans took a trip this summer. But while you were taking a break, your taxes were still hard at work adding up for your 2013 tax bill.

With summer vacation almost over and the first day of school around the corner, now is the time to meet with your CPA to make some powerful tax moves that can save you money. In fact, many tax changes must be started and coordinated in the middle of the year in order to see any real results. If you spent as many hours on financial planning activities as you did vacation planning, you would be well ahead of most Americans. Here are a few mid-year tax changes you can make to impact your finances before the end-of-the-year crunch time:

- Get more depreciation for improvements on your commercial properties by conducting a cost segregation study. More depreciation means fewer taxes this year and more cash into your pocket. Instead of depreciating your property over 39 years, a cost segregation study can dramatically speed up the depreciation so you get your deductions sooner. Items that could qualify for faster depreciation schedules include improvements to your commercial property like parking lot repairs, a new kitchen, landscaping and much more.
- Lower your tax payments by starting now to plan, establish and fund your own retirement plan contribution. Some people forget that you need to also pay yourself regularly, rather than just pay the bills. A lack of planning can actually accumulate more bills in the long run.
- Did you attend a conference this summer? Hopefully you saved your receipts. A business trip combined with family can make for a great vacation and a tax deduction. Remember that you can't expense or deduct the cost of extra meals, roll away beds, or other charges for the family, but a company-paid airline ticket or hotel room can help you save a substantial amount of money.



- You still have a few weeks in August to take a trip with your family, but what if there aren't any seminars planned in your industry in a city you want to visit? Plan other business meetings with potential acquisition targets, industry experts or consultants, or even reporters who you want to meet for possible public relations opportunities. Scheduling a family outing between business meetings will help make the basic travel costs (as mentioned above) tax deductible.
- Plan now for the effects of healthcare coverage on your taxes. The new healthcare laws will affect your employment and health costs, including the 2013 implemented Medicare surcharge of 3.8% for those who earn more than \$200,000 (filing single) or \$250,000 (filing jointly).

These personalized planning opportunities will be needed sooner than your summer sunburn fades away. Contact an experienced tax professional to learn more about what you can do today to lower your tax bill tomorrow.



By: Scott Taylor, CPA & shareholder,
Piercy Bowler Taylor & Kern CPAs and
Business Advisors



“City National – financial technology and great service.”

Providing online access, presenting innovative ways of doing things, coming in to train our staff – all these are part of City National’s service commitment. Their solutions improve our school’s operations and allow us to focus on being educators.

City National is *The way up*® for our school.

Henry Chanin

Head of The Meadows School

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vegas young professionals

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white hot heats up on august 15

Don't miss Vegas Young Professionals' most popular event of the year on Thursday, August 15. White Hot 8 will take over the newly-remodeled GHOSTBAR inside the Palms Casino Resort from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and give you an opportunity to dress in your coolest summer whites, engage with other young professionals and enjoy an evening of building your business network. Register early or get more information at VegasYP.com.

GHOSTBAR

PALMS

VEGAS INC



Y

ou walk into a business meeting prepared. You've been trying to land this client for the last few years and you are ready to get this deal signed. You set up your presentation equipment and distribute the pamphlets you created. You see the decision maker across the table. You try to lighten up the mood by starting with a joke. No luck. You mention how professional everyone at the table looks, and still no reaction. Finally, you just start going through your presentation. As you click through the slides and go over the proposed business deal, the people in the room are entertained by your energy. You pause at the appropriate times. You speak slowly and clearly as you present each detail of the proposal with poise. There you have it - a smile from the man you came to see. Success! You got the reaction you wanted from the person that mattered most! Now all you need is his signature!

Most people aren't aware of how powerful persuasive speaking skills can be. Anyone can be confident and wing it, but it takes time and preparation to develop strong speaking skills. People don't just wake up one day and become great speakers. They work on developing those skills and honing in on areas in which they need improvement, as well as notice to the skills they already have. This is why VYP Toastmasters is important to young professionals. It is a place where you can come and speak on anything that you want to and get the encouragement you need to succeed in all areas of your life. Whether you

are looking to network, make new friends or work on your public speaking skills, VYP Toastmasters is a good fit.

In our group, I have established strong connections with fellow members and we have become a solid support group to one another. We mentor each other through each speech and encourage people not to be overcritical of themselves. Together, we develop strong relationships while networking and building our public speaking and leadership skills.

Everyone in our group is friendly, encouraging, and range from young professionals just starting their careers to those who are well established in their current positions. The atmosphere is fun and entertaining as you work on getting better and watch others improve and work on their public speaking skills. I have seen some of the most amazing speakers and story tellers while attending our meetings.

Building these skills isn't going to happen overnight, though. If you have thought about joining us, get down to usr/lib, inside the Emergency Arts building at Fremont and 6th Street in Downtown Las Vegas, every second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Register online at LVChamber.com, and we'll see you there!

By: Melissa Skipworth,
Sales & Marketing, Exhibit Fair International,
VYP Advisory Council Member

VYP is the largest Young Professionals Organization in Nevada. It is the ideal organization to make new business contacts, to gain a unique perspective on the Southern Nevada business community and to further your professional development. For more information visit VegasYP.com.



fusion
mixer
at chateau
nightclub & gardens
at paris las vegas



More than 200 VYP members made new business connections under the inimitable backdrop of the Eiffel Tower at Chateau Nightclub & Gardens at Paris Las Vegas in June.

fusion
mixer
at mcfadden's
restaurant and
saloon las vegas



Vegas Young Professionals helped kick off McFadden's grand opening celebration during July's Fusion Mixer. With more than 200 attendees, it was an evening of Irish hospitality and toasts being made to new business relationships.

the final word



startup weekend: pitch perfect

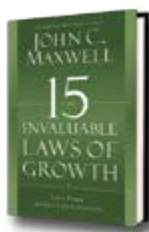
Excited to get going with the startup community? Be sure to check out the next Startup Weekend Las Vegas on August 9-11, at The inNEVation Center, just before SWSX V2V kicks off at The Cosmopolitan. Anyone is welcome to pitch their startup idea and receive peer feedback. Teams of designers, developers, marketers and other key players in business development form around the top ideas, and in a 54-hour race to the pitching stage, companies form, marketing strategies develop, websites construct and market research validates the product or service. Teams can also interact with coaches for guidance, support and feedback. The weekend culminates on Sunday, when the top teams pitch their ideas to a group of judges with opportunities to place in the top three and gain knowledge, feedback and access to valuable business-building resources.

Among the judges for this event are Steve Case, chairman and CEO of Revolution, co-founder of America Online and chairman of UPGlobal, a new global partnership from Startup Weekend and the Startup America Partnership that connects entrepreneurs with their communities and resources. "We're looking forward to having our Chairman of the Board, Steve Case, judge our Startup Weekend in Las Vegas the weekend before SXSW V2V," says Joey Pomerence, CMO of UPGlobal.

The Metro Chamber and JumpStart Vegas are proud to be a platinum sponsor of Startup Weekend Las Vegas. For more information, visit lasvegas.startupweekend.org.

add these to your queue

BOOK



"THE 15 INVALUABLE LAWS OF GROWTH: LIVE THEM AND REACH YOUR POTENTIAL," -

It deals with the true principles that help a person grow. His books teach everyone about reaching their potential. - John Pinnington, Owner - AA Printing Service

TWITTER



SWITCH - @SuperNAP.
- Lindsay Williams, Market Development Manager - CenturyLink

APP



DRAGON - Dragon Dictation is voice recognition application that allows me to dictate emails, notes and short audios. - Darrell Evans, Co-Founder - Yokel Local Internet Marketing



**WE WERE
SAVING IT FOR
BEERPONG
TOURNAMENTS**

(or winepong when we're feeling elegant)

or **DISCO** dodgeball
or movie nights or **MOVIE DAYS** or

DOGGIE DAYCARE

OR BOOZE-INFUSED musical chairs or

frozen margarita freeze tag

or client meeting paintball or a jack handey homage museum

or **2 buck chuck duck-duck goose**

OR LADDER BALL ON LADDERS

or talentless **talent shows** or

ATARI tournaments
or decoupage parties

or **marketing**

SPOUSE SUPPORT SESSIONS

or an **indoor skate park**

or **kickass** karaoke

(mma meets karaoke—it's kickass)

or a **PINBALL PALACE**

or an ice hockey rink without ice or

a **hot lava** badminton court

or an **ironic meth lab**

(but not really, lawman) OR a **low-end**

DAYCLUB with **KIDDY
POOLS**

and baby bottle service

or **sand volleyball** or

TED TALKS

or a **penguin rescue**

or bocce ball courts or bunkbed napping cots

or **ROSHAMBO** mixers or a climbing wall with

a suspended tattoo parlor or **poetry readings**

or **palm readings** or **POETIC PALM READINGS**

or a coffee shop for everyone but hipsters (huh?).

BUT INSTEAD, WE'RE MAKING IT

#1 DollarOfficeSpace.

If you're a tech start-up that wants honest-to-goodness office space in Downtown Las Vegas, in an old bread factory that's clearly home to dozens of half-baked ideas, for \$1 a month, we're now accepting applications, bribes and flattering tweets. For details, go here → 1dollarofficespace.tumblr.com.

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U.S. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID

ADDRESSES THE METRO CHAMBER FOR A SPECIAL
BUSINESS POWER LUNCHEON



AUGUST 21, 2013

Four Seasons Las Vegas
3960 Las Vegas Blvd. South

11:30 A.M. - Noon: Check In & Networking
Noon - 1:00 P.M.: Program

\$50: Members | \$65: Non-members | \$500: Table of 10

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TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL 702.641.5822 OR VISIT LVCHAMBER.COM



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

At The ACT Nightclub
The Shoppes at the Palazzo

Thursday, August 29
5:30 -7:30 p.m.

RSVP at LVChamber.com
or by calling 702.641.5822